

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

IO-10 OMB-01 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-01 SAM-01 EA-09 /104 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JGHUFF

APPROVED BY EUR:RBARBOUR

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P 282327Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUANDA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 205762

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: AUGUST 28 NOON PRESS BRIEFING

1. FOLLOWING ARE PORTUGAL-RELATED EXCERPTS FROM THE  
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S NOON BRIEFING, AUGUST 28;

2. Q: IS THERE ANYTHING NEW ON THE IDEA OF US ASSISTANCE  
IN AIRLIFTING WHITE REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA?

A: THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IS THAT LAST NIGHT PRESIDENT  
FORD DID RECEIVE A LETTER FROM PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT  
COSTA GOMES FORMALLY REQUESTING US ASSISTANCE IN THE  
PORTUGUESE EVACUATION EFFORT.

Q: AND ANY REPLY TO THAT YET?

A: NO. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY TO IT -- NO FORMAL  
REPLY TO THE FORMAL REQUEST (LAUGHTER), BUT OUR AGREEMENT  
IN PRINCIPLE TO HELP STILL STANDS OF COURSE.  
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Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE DETAILS AT ALL HOW THIS MIGHT  
BE DONE, WHEN IT MIGHT BE DONE, WHAT KIND OF PERSONNEL  
MIGHT BE USED?

A: I DO NOT HAVE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON FUNDING OR LOGISTICS.

Q: DOES THE LETTER REFER TO HOW MANY PORTUGUESE?

A: I DO NOT KNOW THAT THE LETTER REFERS TO ANY SPECIFIC NUMBER.

Q: DID THE LETTER OUTLINE THE AID REQUEST?

A: NO. I BELIEVE THE LETTER SIMPLY ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS HUMANITARIAN PROJECT....

Q: WELL, WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP TO RESPOND TO IT?

A: WE HAVE SAID WE WOULD HELP IN PRINCIPLE. THE NEXT STEP IS TO WORK OUT THE FUNDING AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS.

Q: HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE? SINCE BEFORE YOU INDICATED THAT PART OF THE DELAY WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FACT THAT NO FORMAL REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE, CAN WE ASSUME THIS WILL GO FORTH WITH HASTE?

A: I DO NOT THINK THAT I INDICATED THAT WE WERE DELAYING ANSWERING BECAUSE WE DID NOT HAVE A FORMAL REQUEST....

Q: I ASKED YOU IF IT WOULD BE DELAYED.

A: ...AND I DO NOT KNOW THERE HAS BEEN A DELAY. I THINK I INDICATED THAT UPON RECEIPT LAST FRIDAY OF THE REQUEST, WE HAD BEGUN OUR PRELIMINARY PLANNING, AND I THINK THAT IS WHY WE...

Q: WELL, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THERE IS A DELAY OR UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT, WILL THERE BE ACTION TAKEN QUICKLY ON AN URGENT BASIS?

A: SURE, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN EXPEDITIOUSLY AND URGENTLY, BUT I DO NOT KNOW THE TIMEFRAME.

Q: HOW ABOUT TIMOR? AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA HAVE BEEN ASKED TO HELP REMOVE PEOPLE FROM TIMOR. HAS THE US BEEN ASKED FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY TO TAKE PART IN ANYTHING -- ANY HUMANITARIAN ENTERPRISE -- INVOLVING TIMOR?

A: WE HAVE NOT BEEN APPROACHED, EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, BY THE PORTUGUESE.

Q: BOB, IN VIEW OF THE SUGGESTION THAT THE US HAS BEEN DRAGGING ITS HEELS ON THE ANGOLA AID, COULD YOU INQUIRE INTO IT AND LET US KNOW WHAT ACTION IS BEING TAKEN OR WHAT ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN?

A: I WILL CHECK.

Q: WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES OF FUNDING? WHERE MIGHT THE MONEY COME FROM?

A: I THINK IT WOULD MOST LIKELY COME FROM DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THAT IS?

A: NO I DO NOT. INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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